New Jersey Department of Education

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers
(PARCC)

Testing Accommodations for
English Learners (EL)

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Accommodations

It is important to ensure that a student's performance in the classroom as well as on standardized testing is not influenced by the student's disability or linguistic characteristics that are unrelated to the content being assessed.

Accommodations are intended to reduce the effects of a student's disability and/or English language proficiency level but not to reduce learning expectations.

Any and all accommodations provided to a student must be generally consistent with those provided for classroom instruction and classroom assessment.

Testing Accommodations must adhere to established principles, such as but not limited to:

- Enable students to participants more fully in assessments
- Based upon individual student needs
- Based on documented need

Accommodations

As the department transitions to PARCC assessments, testing accommodations have been expanded to increase access for most students.

New Jersey's current testing accommodations for English Learners include:

- **Additional time of up to 150% of the administration times indicated**

- **Translation of test directions ONLY in the student's native language**

- **Use of a bilingual (i.e., word-for-word) translation dictionary**

The department has long adopted the *World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment* (WIDA) guidelines as a framework for districts to use to determine the best assessment tool for their English Learner population (i.e., Spanish version of the NJ ASK).

WIDA Guidelines

Entering	•Pictorial or graphic representation of the language of the content areas	**Level 1**
Beginning	•General language related to the content areas •Phrases or short sentences	**Level 2**
Developing	•General and some specific language related to the content areas •Expanded sentences in oral interactions and written paragraphs	**Level 3**

WIDA Guidelines

Expanding	•**Specific and some technical language of the content areas** •**Sentence lengths of varying linguistic complexity in oral or written discourse**	**Level 4**
Bridging	•**Technical language of the content areas** •**Sentence lengths of varying linguistic complexity in oral or written discourse**	**Level 5**
Reaching	•**Specialized or technical language reflective of the content area at grade level** •**Oral or written communication in English comparable to proficient English peers**	**Level 6**

Composite English Language Proficiency (ELP) Levels

WIDA	ELP
Level 1 and Level 2	Beginning
Level 3 and Level 4	Intermediate
Level 5 and Level 6	Advanced

Composite English Language Proficiency (ELP) Levels

Students in the **<u>Beginning</u>** level have demonstrated limited proficiency in reading and writing and as a result experience the greatest need for testing accommodations. Students at this level demonstrate the greatest need for accommodations but are not well equipped to use them.

Students in the **<u>Intermediate</u>** level have developed some literacy in English and can benefit from a broader range of testing accommodations. Testing accommodations for students at this level vary depending upon the student's background and characteristics.

Students in the **<u>Advanced</u>** level are expected to demonstrate a decreased need for most testing accommodations.

English Learners and PARCC

Accommodations	Administration Guidelines
Extended Time	**A maximum of up to one school day is allowed to complete one test session during the prescribed testing window. Students who use this accommodation must be given a quiet location in which to complete the test.**
General Administration Directions Clarified in Student's Native Language	**Test administrator clarifies general administration directions only. No part of the test may be clarified or translated. Students should be given time to process directions and ask clarifying questions about the directions ONLY. Students must be tested in a separate setting with other students needing the same accommodation.**

English Learners on PARCC

Accommodations	Administration Guidelines
General Administration Directions Read Aloud and Repeated as Needed in Student's Native Language	Test administrator reads aloud, and repeats as needed, test directions in the student's native language. Students should be given time to process directions and ask clarifying questions about the directions ONLY. Students must be tested in a separate setting with other students needing the same accommodation.
Scribe or Speech-to-Text: Responses Dictated for Mathematics Assessment in English (*not permitted for English Language Arts)	Student dictates responses in English to Mathematics test items either to a human scribe or through speech-to-text technology. Students must be tested in a separate one-on-one setting.

English Learners on PARCC

Accommodations	Administration Guidelines
Word-to-Word Dictionary (English/Native Language)	**Student uses bilingual, word-to-word dictionary or *electronic translator. Dictionaries that include definitions or pictures are not allowed. Students must be familiar with the dictionary they will use on the test. Students must be given time to complete the test using this accommodation. (*Please note –the electronic translator must have all accessibility features such as email, internet connectivity, etc., completely disabled to ensure test security at all times.)**

English Learner and PARCC

Who get's what??????

Extended time will be available to all students in all three levels – **Beginning**, **Intermediate**, and **Advanced**. However, clarifying test directions, and read loud and repeated directions, in the student's native language, should only be made available to students in the **Beginning** and **Intermediate** levels but not to students in the **Advanced** level.

The use of a word-to-word dictionary is recommended for students in the **Intermediate** and **Advanced** levels but not for students in the **Beginning** level.

Students receiving Scribe or Speech-to-Text accommodations fall in the **Beginning** and **Intermediate** levels; however, students in the **Advanced** level may not have access to this accommodation.

Testing Accommodations
and
Testing Population

Testing Accommodations	Testing Population
Extended Time	**Beginning – Highly Recommended** **Intermediate – Highly Recommended** **Advanced – Highly Recommended**
General Administration Directions Clarified in Student's Native Language	**Beginning – Highly Recommended** **Intermediate – Recommended** **Advanced – May not be appropriate**
General Administration Directions Read Aloud and Repeated as Needed in Student's Native Language	**Beginning – Highly Recommended** **Intermediate – Recommended** **Advanced – May not be appropriate**
Scribe or Speech-to-Text: Responses Dictated for Mathematics Assessment in English	**Beginning – Highly Recommended** **Intermediate – Recommended** **Advanced – May not be appropriate**
Word-to-Word Dictionary (English/Native Language)	**Beginning – May not be appropriate** **Intermediate – Highly recommended** **Advanced – Highly recommended**

Guidelines for Selecting Appropriate Accommodations and
Accessibility Features for English Learners

Does the accommodation help the student overcome the barrier posed by his/her developing English language proficiency?

Is the student experienced and comfortable using the accommodation or support?

When selecting accommodations for English Learners, consider the student's:

- Level of English language proficiency (ELP)
  - Beginning, Intermediate, or Advanced
- Literacy development in the native language
  - Native language literacy
  - Interrupted schooling/literacy background
- Background factors that impact effective accommodations use
  - Grade/age
  - Affective filter (i.e., level of student anxiety/comfort with English)
  - Time in U.S. schools

Guidelines for Selecting Appropriate Accommodations and
Accessibility Features for English Learners

Only students who are currently classified as English Learners (i.e., ELL, LEP) are eligible to receive testing accommodations for English Learners for the PARCC assessments.

Students classified as English Learners whose parent/legal guardian has refused language support program services are eligible for English Learner testing accommodations.

Administering Accommodations During Testing

It is important for test administrators and all other appropriate personnel to be engaged in planning the logistics regarding the assessment accommodations for each day of testing.

An appropriate list must be developed with the names of the students, the accommodations they require, test locations, and staff responsible for administering the test with the accommodations.

Test administrators must be aware of and understand the requirements for providing accommodations on the PARCC assessments.

Accommodations should never be used for the first time on a state test. Testing accommodations should be introduced to the student(s) long before the PARCC assessments are administered to determine their effectiveness.

Evaluation of Accommodations

In order to determine the need for continued accommodations or rethinking of, it will be necessary to collect and analyze data on the use and effectiveness of testing accommodations.

The following questions will help guide the analysis of accommodations at the school, district, and student level:

1. *What types of mechanisms are in place to ensure test administration procedures are not compromised due to the provision of accommodations?*
2. *Are students receiving testing accommodations as documented in their EL plan or other documentation used for EL's?*
3. *What policy and procedures are instituted to ensure test administrators comply with directions for the appropriate administration of testing accommodations?*
4. *How often and what is frequency of the use different types of testing accommodations?*

List of Authorized Bilingual Word-for-Word Dictionaries and Glossaries

Dictionary	Price
Collins COBUILD English/Español Glossary Cengage Learning ISBN – 13: 9781424019649 ISBN – 10: 1424019648	$13.00 $9.25 (school price) **prices subject to change
English-Spanish/Spanish-English Word to Word Dictionary Educa Vision, Inc. ISBN – 13: 9781584324843 ISBN – 10: 1584324848	$24.50 **price subject to change
Random House Webster's Handy Spanish Dictionary Spanish-English/English-Spanish Random House, Inc. ISBN – 13: 9780375707018 ISBN – 10: 0375707018	$5.99 **price subject to change
Spanish Word to Word Bilingual Dictionary Bilingual Dictionaries, Inc. ISBN – 13: 9780933146990 ISBN – 10: 093314699X	$14.95 **price subject to change

Please note: for the 2014 PARCC Field Test, whichever word-for-word translation dictionary is currently being used by the student in class may be used for testing; however, it must meet the test accommodations specification noted in the presentation.

List of Authorized Bilingual Word-for-Word Dictionaries and Glossaries

Dictionary	Price
The American Heritage Pocket Spanish Dictionary Houghton Mifflin Company ISBN – 13: 9780618132164 ISBN – 10: 0618132163	$4.50 **prices subject to change
The Penguin Pocket Spanish Dictionary Penguin Group (USA) ISBN – 13: 9780141020457 ISBN – 10: 0141020458	$15.62 **price subject to change
21st Century Spanish-English/English-Spanish Dictionary Random House Publish Group, Inc. ISBN – 13: 9780440220879 ISBN – 10: 0440220874	$5.99 **price subject to change
Word-for-Word English-Spanish/Spanish-English Dictionary HaperCollins Publishers ISBN – 13: 9780061774379 ISBN – 10: 0061774375	$6.99 **price subject to change

Please note: for the 2014 PARCC Field Test, whichever word-for-word translation dictionary is currently being used by the student may be used for testing; however, it must meet the test accommodations specification noted in the presentation.

List of Authorized Bilingual Word-for-Word Dictionaries and Glossaries

For a complete listing of authorized Bilingual Word-to-Word Dictionaries and Glossaries, please visit the web site below.

Students who are reported as English Learners may have access to an authorized bilingual dictionary or bilingual glossary for statewide assessment.

Authorized bilingual dictionaries and glossaries are limited to those that provide word-to-word translations, but no definitions.

http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/lep_bilingual_dictionary.pdf

Additional Support

For a comprehensive overview of the testing accommodations discussed in this presentation, please visit the web site below.

This manual will provide guidance and technical assistance for districts in administering testing accommodations.

http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-accessibility-features-and-accommodations-manual